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FORM DISCUSSION GETS HIGH OF MAY

Replaces Consideration of D. C. Suffrage at Petworth Citizens' Association Meeting.

SPEECH OF MR. NEWMAN
PRECIPITATES THE ISSUE

Commissioner's Address Brings
Forth Vigorous Retort From E. H. Daniels of Board of Education.

Action on both suffrage for the District and E. W. Oyster's proposed new form of District government were sidetracked at the meeting of the Petworth Citizens' Association, at 8th and Shepherd streets northwest, last evening by the unforeseen introduction of the community form by Commissioner Oliver P. Newman and a vigorous counter retort by Ernest H. Daniels, vice president of the board of education.

A vote on the Oyster proposition had been made the order of the evening more than a month ago by the association, and after the receipt of the usual committee reports last night the association seemed about ready to take up Mr. Oyster's measure, with a suggestion from President James that speeches be limited to five minutes, when one of the members vigorously declared he would need an hour in the association had several invited guests present, including A. Leftwich Sinclair, Commissioner of Education, and a number of other members of the board of education, who were expected to make addresses, and so by vote the consideration of the Oyster resolution was deferred until later in the evening, when the speeches that followed made further postponement necessary until a special meeting next Tuesday evening, when all other matters will be laid aside for its consideration.

Address of Mr. Sinclair.

Mr. Sinclair, the first speaker, declared that he, in common with a very large percentage of the people of the District of Columbia, favored an amendment to the Constitution of the United States giving the District representation in the Senate and the House of Representatives and in the electoral college. Such an amendment, he said, is proposed in a joint resolution framed by the Washington Chamber of Commerce which is now pending before committees in Congress. It was introduced in the Senate by Senator George D. Chamberlain, a democrat of Oregon, and in the House of Representatives by Representative Richard W. Austin, a republican of Tennessee.

After outlining the text of the resolution, which is designated in the Senate as "S. J. Res. 22," he began by quoting from the argument advanced by Theodore W. Noyes, a member of the committee of the Chamber of Commerce which drafted the resolution, and which has already appeared in The Star.

"We of the District of Columbia are entitled to this form of representation in the national government upon every principle of equity and justice," said Mr. Sinclair. "It should have been given to us many years ago. The founders of this government did not intend that the people of the District should be disfranchised forever. Of this there is abundant evidence."

He then quoted from speeches of members of Congress, which showed the expectation held upon the subject in the early days, beginning with Representative Dennis of Maryland, in December, 1800, and including Representative Sully of Pennsylvania, at the same time, who declared that "every man who contributed to the support of our government ought to be represented in it, otherwise his natural rights were subverted and he was left not a citizen, but a slave."

More People Than Some States.

Mr. Sinclair contended that the obvious reason the District was not given representation in Congress at the beginning was that its population was then too small. "It now exceeds that of six states," he continued, "Nevada, Wyoming, Delaware, Arizona, Idaho and New Mexico, each represented by two senators and at least one representative, while the District is unrepresented at all."

"Why," he asked, "should we be deprived of representation in the Congress which makes our laws and imposes and disburses our taxes and which may send every mother's son of us to war to be wounded or killed? Why should we be deprived of participation in the choice of President, who appoints our Commissioners, our judges, our District attorneys, our post master, our marshal, our register of wills, our recorder of deeds and other local public officers?"

The denial of these rights is inconsistent with the principles and provisions of our free institutions. If it is the policy of the District not to rely upon to bear the burdens and fight the battles of the government, then might be some reason why they should be deprived of the rights. But such is not the case. They bear identically the same burden and enjoy the same service as citizens in other parts of the country. Should they not, therefore, be placed upon the same footing as their fellow citizens elsewhere?"

Question Is Non-Partisan.

"It should be stated," he said, "that this is not a party question. I do not know whether the District would be more democratic or republican. That, to my mind, is immaterial. The question is simply whether the principle of representative government shall be recognized here in the capital of the republic, where, in the past, it has been cast aside."

The status of the disfranchised people of the District, he said, has been the subject of frequent comment in and out of Congress. He offered to his Representative Clark, as early as 1885, declared that whenever he spoke of the inhabitants of the District he alluded to them "with pity and compassion," and "he devoutly wished to see them placed upon the same footing as every true lover of civil and political freedom."

He then quoted from President Monroe's second message to Congress, in 1818, who suggested that "it may merit consideration whether an arrangement better adapted to the principles of our government and to the particular interests of the people may not be devised which will neither infringe the Constitution nor affect the object which the provision in question (of the Constitution) was intended to secure." From President Tyler, who said, in 1844: "The District is the only anomaly in our republic where the legislators are selected by others than those for whom they make the laws," from the late Mayor Matthew G. Emery and the late Mayor Sayles J. Bowen, both of whom challenged the reason for the discrimination against the people of the District; from Senator Blair of New Hampshire, in 1890, who declared, "It would be supposed that the government of the United States would be administered in the republican form; that the capital of the foremost republic on the face of the earth, that one spot exclusively under its control, would itself be a model republic, without the trace of

despotism, or of aristocracy; that such a community would illustrate in the highest possible form the practical workings and the superior blessings of a democratic and representative form of government; that in such a specific locality, if nowhere else, government of the people would be by the people and for the people."

Quotes Speaker Clark.

Representative (now Speaker) Champ Clark, in April, 1890, was quoted as declaring that "the fact that under the shadow of the nation's capital 200,000 American citizens, white and black, are completely disfranchised, not permitted to vote on any proposition under the sun, are reduced to the low estate of the African, the subject of commentary to be found anywhere on the theory of representative government."

Mr. Sinclair was followed by Chapin Brown in an endorsement of what Mr. Sinclair had said forth. He said he had endorsed the Senate action on the House of Representatives upon the proposition and had been unable to find a single argument against it. He felt that a delegate in Congress, without the right to vote, did not meet the requirements, which he said, demanded a representation that could swap votes and say to opponents, as was frequently done in both houses, "If you oppose our needs we will do the same for yours." Mr. Brown urged the members of the association to both pray and work for the Chamberlain measure.

"I pray with something more than your heart," he said, "I pray with my pen. I write to your friends out in the states and urge them to support the matter with their congressmen. I am a member of the republican national committee, he said, and I propose to bring the matter up with the committee and persuade them to use their influence that tardy justice may at last be done the capital of the United States."

Speech of Commissioner Newman.

Commissioner Newman was next introduced by President James M. Sinclair, who seemed to speak slowly and with some hesitation, carefully threading his way through several subjects that had been sharply discussed in the presentation of the committee reports, notably the objection to the location of the new municipal hospital in the territory bounded by Georgia avenue, 14th, E and Allison streets, and the suffrage propositions. He finally spoke of the matter in question, the community center and forum proposition, saying it contemplated the formation of a center of the schoolhouse for its capitol, where the parents of the neighborhood might meet to discuss questions of community interest and a majority of them regulate the subjects to be discussed and the use of the school for the purpose.

The purpose, he said, was not solely the social and recreational use of the schoolhouse, but the creation of a center for the political activities of the neighborhood, with the principal of the school as the executive secretary, forming a link between the school, the members of the community and the central government. The school, he said, could be made a voting center for the neighborhood in the event of suffrage.

Two advantages were apparent, he said: one was that before an election the adults of the neighborhood would have thrashed out in the community forum all the matters to be voted upon, and the other that it would make thoroughly respectable the voting place. Woman suffrage, which seemed to be contemplated here, he said, had cleaned up the voting places wherever it existed. The majority of the men and women of the District would determine what would be done and what talked about and determined when and how the school might be used for social or recreational purposes.

Says Forum Would Help.

Mr. Newman declared that both the Commissioners and the committees in Congress needed help in interpreting the needs of the people of the District and that the community forum would be a tremendous advantage for this purpose, if self-government be granted, and if it was not it would be a tremendous advantage anyway. He concluded by saying, "We would like to see the plan put in operation here in the District. Mr. Newman also was warmly applauded at the close of his address."

James C. Oyster, who was then introduced, strongly endorsed the arguments of Messrs. Sinclair and Brown for representative Sully of Pennsylvania, at the same time, who declared that "every man who contributed to the support of our government ought to be represented in it, otherwise his natural rights were subverted and he was left not a citizen, but a slave."

Vice President Daniels of the board of education was then introduced for a few remarks and in a direct and vigorous manner he went right to the root of what he had to say.

"We have the best school equipment to be found in the United States," he declared, "secured largely through the untiring efforts of Capt. Oyster, represented by two senators and at least one representative, while the District is unrepresented at all."

"Why," he asked, "should we be deprived of representation in the Congress which makes our laws and imposes and disburses our taxes and which may send every mother's son of us to war to be wounded or killed? Why should we be deprived of participation in the choice of President, who appoints our Commissioners, our judges, our District attorneys, our post master, our marshal, our register of wills, our recorder of deeds and other local public officers?"

"Our first duty is to the children," he said, "to educate them and fit them for their future duties in life, and anything that interferes with that or with the legitimate operation of the schools we are opposed to."

"I am not impressed with the community forum. It is a fad, and like all other fads will soon die out. We granted the use they asked of the schools. They wanted them on Sunday. That meant janitor service and pay for the extra work to the janitors. The property we must take care of and we are going to it. The Johnson-Hollis bill makes the principal of the school the executive secretary of the forum. She has too much already of legitimate duty to perform to crowd this work upon her."

"If Congress says we must open the school buildings on Sunday and give the money to do it, we will do it," Mr. Daniels then went on to say that a canvass of the school board members showed unmistakably that the sentiment was opposed to the Sunday forum. The Park View association, he said, had favored the idea. But, he said, results of the use of the schoolroom had been bad. He referred to the condition of the room after use for the purpose and said even the blackboards had been defaced by unseemly use.

"Everybody," he said, "who has a fad wants to tack it on to the schools of the District. He offered to the Johnson-Hollis bill and discuss it section by section, if the association cared to have him, and he urged and again that the association be not misled by smooth talkers with new proposals about the condition more congenial to his own and the feeling of every true lover of civil and political freedom."

He then quoted from President Monroe's second message to Congress, in 1818, who suggested that "it may merit consideration whether an arrangement better adapted to the principles of our government and to the particular interests of the people may not be devised which will neither infringe the Constitution nor affect the object which the provision in question (of the Constitution) was intended to secure." From President Tyler, who said, in 1844: "The District is the only anomaly in our republic where the legislators are selected by others than those for whom they make the laws," from the late Mayor Matthew G. Emery and the late Mayor Sayles J. Bowen, both of whom challenged the reason for the discrimination against the people of the District; from Senator Blair of New Hampshire, in 1890, who declared, "It would be supposed that the government of the United States would be administered in the republican form; that the capital of the foremost republic on the face of the earth, that one spot exclusively under its control, would itself be a model republic, without the trace of

Promises a Competent Debater.

Commissioner Newman at this point arose and urged that if the association proposed to let Mr. Daniels discuss the bill its proponents be given an opportunity to do likewise. "I promise to supply competent debaters to support the forside of the argument."

President James, who had followed closely the spirited argument, arose at this point, and, after thanking the speakers for their address, assured them that the association had both the facilities and the intelligence to investigate and discuss the facts and all questions for itself, and then to

take such legislative action within its scope as might be proper. The remark caused laughter, lightened the tension, and the association, after setting apart next Tuesday night for the consideration of the E. W. Oyster local government proposition adjourned.

The association will probably hold its next meeting May 23 and 24, according to its committee's recommendation, which is to hold a series of public hearings on the proposed location for the new Municipal Hospital, stating that the character and conditions of the site, and the fact that the hospital would tend to seriously affect the car service from a sanitary standpoint, and he held that the health of one high school girl or boy was above all those who would be benefited by the hospital. He favored, as a last resort, a fight against an appropriation for a new hospital rather than have it located in Petworth. To abandon the present site in East Washington, he said, meant the abandonment of a million dollars' worth of government property, a fight against an appropriation for a new hospital rather than have it located in Petworth.

E. A. BRAND ADDRESSES
SAVANNAH CONVENTION

Discusses World Markets Before
Basket and Fruit Package Manufacturers' Association.

SAVANNAH, Ga., April 19.—While American merchants do not want to take undue advantage of the world's markets now, they should familiarize themselves so that they will be able to compete on fair grounds after the war is over, according to Edward A. Brand, assistant chief of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, who spoke here today before the National Basket and Fruit Package Manufacturers' Association.

"Our efforts in the world's markets," he said, "should be regarded in the nature of helping the foreign consumers to secure the commodities they desire, and which they can no longer procure elsewhere, rather than increasing our own sales. In other words, this is a time for preparedness rather than exploitation."

Mr. Brand, in a position at the end of the war to meet and compete with our trade rivals on their own ground, said, "Finally, American manufacturers must realize that for all the bulk of our products are being sold, and will continue to be sold, in foreign markets, because of their superior quality and not because of low prices. 'Made in America' has always been interpreted as 'higher but better' than the foreign product, and we must try to preserve that meaning."

Mr. Brand also explained the opportunity which the south had to participate in this foreign trade, and pointed to Latin America as one of the big fields in which the south could claim a large share of the trade.

Paul Amiller, forty, who shot and killed Paul Prietz last February, was convicted of murder in the second degree at Baltimore and sentenced was suspended.

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DESTRUCTIVE FIRES RAGING IN VIRGINIA

Blaze in Woods Near Accotink
Worst in Years, Covering
Very Large Area.

HOUSES, BARN BURNED;
LIVE STOCK DESTROYED

Passengers on Trains Say Smoke Has
Been So Dense as to Obscure the Sun.

The worst forest fires that have visited nearby Virginia in several years broke out yesterday in the woods near Accotink, resulting in the destruction of timber over an area nearly ten miles long and several miles wide. During the fire at least four houses were burned, with several barns and some live stock.

Passengers arriving in this city on the Washington and Southern train from Richmond reaching here shortly before 7 o'clock last night said that big forest fires were burning all along the railroad from a few miles this side of Fredericksburg to a point above Franconia. At Accotink station, they said, and for several miles along the road this side of that place the smoke from the fires was so dense as to obscure the sun completely.

Near Accotink, it was stated, two houses were in flames as the train passed, while two other houses had already burned and nothing remained of them but the chimneys.

Back-Fire Ineffective.

The fire was borne on yesterday's high wind, and back-fire was unavailing in checking the advance of the

fires. Farmers and others, the passengers on the train stated, were at work fighting the fires, but so far as could be seen from the cars, their efforts were not effective, as the fires were racing ahead of the wind and whole stretches of second-growth pine forests were wrapped in flames. The passengers said that at Lorton, which is the railroad station for the District, it was said by these passengers that the fire was racing in the direction of the railroad station for the District, and that it was stated, had been removed in the course of track-repair work, and the fire had set fire to them, as is the custom. The strong wind carried embers into nearby woods, which were as dry as tinder by reason of the long drought in this section, and the flames within an hour or so were beyond control.

Seven Miles From Railroad.

A big fire was reported to be raging in the woods somewhere west of Cherry Hill and Quantico, the passengers on the train reported. Although apparently six or seven miles from the railroad, they said, the smoke from this fire totally obscured the sun as the train passed about 6 o'clock. The fire was reported to be in the woods along the old Telegraph road and not far from the famous Chappawank swamp.

Reports received at the forest service yesterday and this morning were to the effect that disastrous fires had broken out in the national forest tract of many thousands acres recently acquired in Rockingham and adjacent counties. This forest lies in the Shenandoah valley and the Valley of Virginia, and extends over considerable portions of the Blue Ridge mountains. The fires there were reported to extend over several thousand acres, practically all timber in the burned-over region being destroyed. Heavy rains throughout Virginia, it was said at the forest service today, will be necessary if the fires all over the state are extinguished before they burn out for lack of dry timber and undergrowth on which to feed.

Cornell Club Has Weekly Tea.

The weekly tea of the Cornell Club of Washington will be held this afternoon from 4 to 6 o'clock at the club headquarters, 1504 H street northwest. At luncheon at the Elbert House yesterday Howard E. Ames, president of the club, told of arctic exploits when he was in the navy. Mr. Ames is a member of the class of 1873 of Cornell. Other talks were given by Paul B. Lunt, '07, and E. E. Hawley, '95.

INSURES TWINE FOR HARVEST.

Federal Trade Commission to Distribute Yucatan's Sisal Supply.

Disposal of the present available sisal supply in Yucatan, Mexico, has passed into the hands of the federal trade commission, by direction of the United States Senate, at the request of the marketing organization of Mexican planters. The Commission Regulator. The fiber will be distributed by the trade commission to American manufacturers of binder twine at prices and under conditions laid down by the commission. The 125,000 bales said to be on hand unsold will insure a sufficient supply of twine for the forthcoming American harvest.

While the trade commission is disposing of the sisal, the Senate subcommittee investigating the operations of the planter organization will continue. It was said today that the trade commission might begin a separate investigation into the allegations concerning the Harvester company's effort to corner the market.

The Doctor Calls It "Auto-intoxication"

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(MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR OVERTURE. (Nicolai) Prince's Orchestra. A 5783 12-inch \$1.00

(RACHMANINOFF'S PRELUDE IN C SHARP MINOR, Opus 3, No. 2. Prince's Orchestra.

Other Recordings of Varied Interest

Brice and King, the clever musical comedy and vaudeville pair enter the Columbia field this month with two of their latest song successes; in addition, there are fourteen popular hits; two tremendous operatic chorales; Hawaiian melodies; solos by a new concert soprano, Eldora Stanford, and six up-to-the-minute dance records.

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